

Easterling, Deborah

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 10:32 AM
To:
Subject: RE: Docket ND-2015-20-E

Dear Ms. Messmer,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your email will become a part of ND-2015-20-E - Duke Energy Carolinas: Foothills Transmission and Substation Project- 45-Mile Transmission Line Between Asheville, NC, Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, SC, and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Administrative Coordinator

From: Boyd, Jocelyn
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 8:26 AM
To: Easterling, Deborah; Duke, Daphne; DeSanty, Tricia
Subject: FW: Docket ND-2015-20-E

From: Deborah Messmer [[View Source](#)]
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 6:19 PM
To: Boyd, Jocelyn
Subject: Docket ND-2015-20-E

Dear Ms. Boyd and any/all interested parties –

In reference to the Docket referenced above, since its inception on 7/18/15, a petition I initiated on change.org has earned over 4,600 signatures opposing Duke Energy's expansion plan, one that they contend is 'modernization' and for which the company has provided no documentation of need. It's not a modernization at all, but an expansion of their footprint at the expense of our Foothills.

For all their current appeasements that they are 'listening' Duke Energy did no due diligence up front; sent inadequate letters to those they did contact and missed more than they hit with addresses/owners being affected. The haphazard manner in which this company has approached this project is indicative of its management's lack of respect for those to be affected by this expansion and even more so a lack of respect of the environment and ecology of Upstate SC and of Western NC.

- This is a company that is known for polluting the environment, leaving devastation in its wake. To explain away the need with conflicting information that points to no scientific data proving increased need points to the true need for this project --- increasing Duke Energy's market share.

- The methods Duke Energy has used to communicate with the affected public have been structured to attempt to fracture the community of the Foothills. Their timing of this announcement is completely suspect....especially because they didn't include it in their Fall 2014 announcements, as required. If ambushing the public with an announcement of this magnitude was meant to make people scramble, they surely succeeded.
- The 'community meetings' were set up during the workday and to keep people from hearing each others' questions and hearing answers being put forth – by hired guns whose answers were either nonsensical or so vague as to not provide any information whatsoever. Again, no due diligence has been done....as seen by the insulting and ridiculous presentation of proposed routes overlaid to maps so out of date that Duke Energy management, it's engineers and it's consultants should be ashamed of themselves.

The attempt to fracture our community is not working.

While some elected officials in various locations have issued proclamations/resolutions encouraging Duke Energy to 'play nice' (because they are of the mind that antagonizing the beast is not a good idea, what with future 'working relationships' at stake), not one has said – 'Wow, what a great idea! Let's rip through the Foothills and destroy everything this area is known for (eco-tourism and horse country) and upon which our economy is based'.

Yes, we are ONE community and ONE community in 2 states. Each town, hamlet, city and county inside of this community situated in Upstate SC and WNC must, of necessity, stand up for itself because those that represent the legal limits of its area are only empowered to speak for those they represent. That's their job.

It's our job as members of these communities to point out to Duke Energy, the SC and NC PSC and all elected officials that taken in its totality NO ONE AND NO COMMUNITY is in favor of Duke Energy's plan and that *the information they have communicated* (vs what they are actually using to make 'decisions' – i.e., developing new infrastructure allows the company to create excess energy that they can sell across the national grid, thus creating a new revenue stream at the expense of the Upstate and WNC) as that upon which they are basing a decision to expand *is flawed in many, many ways*.

We may live in the mountains but we are not the unsophisticated rubes Duke Energy takes us for. They have not been transparent about their intentions, but we can see through them. We may be a bunch of individuals who cannot spend all day gathering information or fighting for our Foothills (like Duke has with tons of staff, consultants and lawyers tied to this effort) but we do have regional groups that can, do and will ---- with full-time staff that are prepared to fight the conglomerate – have stated this eloquently and WITH FACTS. So have several Upstate SC legislators stated recently that they will fight this - and for that, we thank them.

We are fighting this because Duke Energy did not come to the table prepared with any semblance of good faith, good information or even pretense of caring about the effects this plan would have on anyone or anything. Again, there is no documented need for Duke Energy's expansion and it will adversely affect the economy and ecology of our area.

Without an INDEPENDENT STUDY DOCUMENTING NEED AND UPON PROOF OF NEED ROUTES LAID OUT THAT USE EXISTING RIGHTS OF WAY AND PROVIDE THE LEAST IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, RESIDENTS, VISITORS, LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURE, FLORA AND FAUNA of the Upstate of SC and Western NC, this project must be put on hold until this is accomplished and Duke Energy should foot the bill. The studies must be independent because Duke Energy has proven it is not to be trusted to provide accurate data.

While we in the Upstate and in WNC Foothills are trying to protect our area, the overall plan by Duke is expansive...we are just a cog in the wheel of what they are trying to do. Duke Energy intends to pipe into the Asheville area natural gas elicited via fracking in the Marcellus Shale in New York State and transporting it down the east coast through pipelines...another frightening thought. There's a lot more to this than what we are fighting against....the master plan is extensive and meant to grow their business. Ok, that's their job.

It's our job -- AND YOURS -- to protect our Foothills and to be certain that utilities that serve the public do so in a manner that is transparent, safe and embraces technologies that can be supported going forward rather than harkening back to the past. It's been proven through it's own earnings statements that Duke Energy's profits have been reduced because conservation efforts are being embraced by the public so it's reasonable to assume that the company will look for new revenue streams. However, this project is a backward step in every way possible.

If people had stood up to the coal companies strip mining and decimated communities in the Appalachians may have been prevented...but they didn't know what we now know. Use that knowledge. Don't let this happen. Stand up for the PUBLIC and ensure that due diligence is performed with independent studies that can fairly identify both need and risk. Ensure that the future of the Carolinas is tied to a future of energy generation that solves problems instead of makes them.

Very sincerely and with respect,

Deborah Messmer

Landrum SC 29356